

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN



**09-10**

MINISTRY OF  
HIGHWAYS AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE



# MINISTRY PLAN FOR 2009-10

## Statement from the Minister



As Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, I am pleased to submit our Plan for 2009-10. This document explains our strategies, key actions and performance measures for the coming year as we continue with our Government's plan for Securing the Future. It identifies how the Ministry's strategies align with the Government's vision for a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing opportunity for a high quality of life for all.

The Ministry will contribute to the province's economic growth through investment in an integrated and strategic highway system. This will include a 5 000 kilometre expansion of the primary weight system, construction on over 250 kilometres of rural highways, and administration of municipal road infrastructure improvement programs. The Ministry is investing in multi-year capital projects to support industrial growth including realignment of Highway 16 in Yorkton, continued road construction supporting the Global Transportation Hub, construction on the Lewvan Interchange, and accelerating the twinning of Highway 11 as well as Urban Connector projects.

To further ensure the safety and security of motorists, the Ministry will provide effective maintenance and rehabilitation of our existing infrastructure. The Ministry will begin construction to replace the St Louis Bridge, complete major rehabilitation or construction on 20 other bridges, replace 38 culverts, and repave 300 kilometres of provincial highways. The Ministry will continue its commitment to the North by investing \$46.5 million in operations, maintenance and construction of northern roads and airports.

Keeping promises will also be at the forefront as the Ministry progresses through the year. Partnerships will continue to be pursued with the federal government to maximize support for infrastructure. The Saskatchewan Centre of Excellence for Transportation and Infrastructure (SCETI), a partnership with the University of Saskatchewan, is one avenue our Ministry is using to seek new construction methods and to continue to foster our innovation agenda.

I look forward to reporting progress on this Plan and on the commitments made by the Government in my Mandate Letter in the Ministry's annual report.

*The Honourable D. Wayne Elhard  
Minister of Highways and Infrastructure*

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (MHI) is to optimize the role of transportation as it relates to the economic and social development of Saskatchewan.

## Response to Government Direction

Ministry Plans for 2009-10 align with Government's vision and goals and the key priorities for 2009-10, as presented in the Government Direction for 2009-10. The 2009-10 Plan communicates a high-level framework for the Ministry's activities over the coming year and reflects the Ministry's primary areas of focus. Together, all ministries support Government's three goals, working towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

# Strategies and Actions

## Government Goal – Economic Growth

Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.

### Strategy

### Key 2009-10 Actions

**Contribute to economic growth through investment in an integrated strategic rural highway system**

- Through the Rural Highway Strategy:
  - ~ Expand the Primary Weight system by 5 000 km; and,
  - ~ Continue and commence construction on over 250 km of rural highways.
- Enhance the municipal and provincial highway system through the administration of municipal infrastructure improvement programs.

**Invest in new gateway transportation infrastructure to improve logistics and economic growth**

- Accelerate Twinning on Highway 11 to be completed in four years.
- Invest in new multi-year infrastructure projects such as:
  - ~ The Global Transportation Hub at Regina;
  - ~ Highway 1 and Lewvan Interchange at Regina; and,
  - ~ Yorkton Truck Route supporting industrial growth.

**Partner with interested urban municipalities to assist with mobility of people and goods through urban communities**

- Through the Urban Connector Program:
  - ~ Acknowledge the provincial interest in Urban Highway connectors to partner with urban municipalities for projects including upgrades, operations, and maintenance.
  - ~ Contribute to Urban Highway Connector upgrades in Lloydminster, Humboldt, Moosomin, Weyburn, and Melfort.

**Develop transportation infrastructure through the Northern Transportation Strategy to foster growth in the resource sector and promote social mobility**

- Policy development for the Northern Transportation Strategy will continue which may include the future use of public-private-partnerships to implement the strategy.
- Continue the Ministry's commitment to the North by investing \$46.5 million in operations, maintenance, and construction of northern roads and airports.

## Strategy

**Invest in multi-modal infrastructure such as regional airports and shortline rail**

## Key 2009-10 Actions

- Support community airports through the Community Airport Partnership Program.
- Administer the Shortline Railway Sustainability program.
- Continue to support the Shortline Loan Program.
- Provide ongoing maintenance to provincially owned airports.

## Government Goal – Security

Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.

### Strategy

### Key 2009-10 Actions

**Provide effective maintenance and rehabilitation on bridges and culverts to contribute to public safety**

- Replace 15 bridges through priorities determined through the Bridge Inspection Program.
- Complete major rehabilitation on five bridges.
- Replace 38 culverts and wood box drainage structures.
- Continue with the Ministry's bridge inspection and replacement strategy by inspecting 50 per cent of the bridge inventory annually.
- Begin the replacement of the St. Louis Bridge.

**Support public safety and effective stewardship through effective maintenance and repaving**

- Repave 300 km of paved highway on the provincial highway system to enhance road safety and contribute to economic growth.
- Develop a preservation policy to determine the effective preservation level of service targets for rehabilitation.
- Deliver the annual Safety Improvement Program to support public safety.

**Ensure safety and ongoing performance of the transportation system through targeted educational campaigns and enforcement activities for the transportation industry and the public**

- Continue to participate in "Road check" and "Operation Air Brake" annual international safety inspection events and plan strategic enforcement activities to reduce commercial vehicle safety issues and regulatory non-compliance
- Provide reliable Highway Hotline services with less than 10-hours of downtime between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Conduct Snow Zone and Orange Zone public information campaigns.

## Government Goal – Promises

Keep Government's **Promises** and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

### Strategy

### Key 2009-10 Actions

**Pursue partnerships with the federal government to maximize support for infrastructure**

- Lead strategic coordination of the federal government's Building Canada Plan Infrastructure Framework.
- Lead strategic policy development and coordination at inter-jurisdictional and bilateral forums to promote strong federal and provincial relations.

**Incorporate business and industry best practices to ensure financial and operational transparency and accountability**

- Encourage innovation by supporting infrastructure research and professional development through the Saskatchewan Centre of Excellence for Transportation and Infrastructure.\*
- Publicly release the five-year rolling capital plan.\*
- Continue to implement quality business management systems to improve Ministry processes.

\* Commitments made in Minister's Mandate Letter

# Performance Measures

## Measure

**Cumulative per cent of Primary Weight expansion open on the provincial highway system**

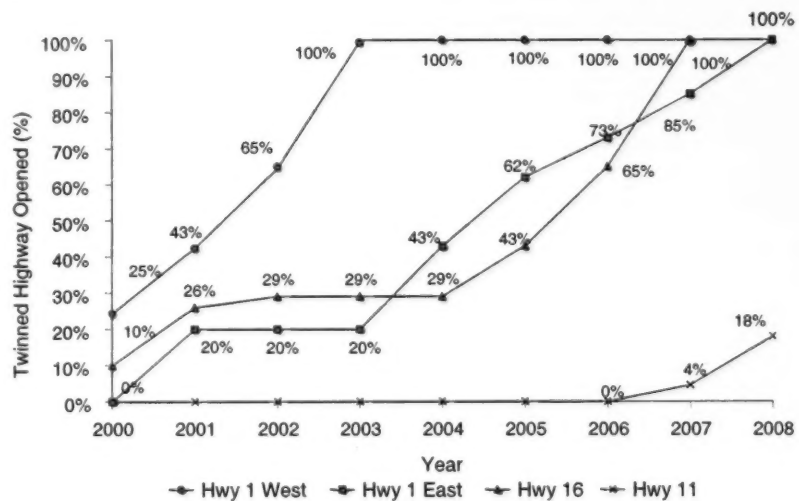
## Baseline / Trend Line Information

**2007-08: 41% of planned Primary Weight expansion was opened.**

### Significance of the Measure

Primary Weight expansion is a key component of the Ministry's Rural Highway Strategy and for a competitive provincial economy. Currently there are 9 400 km of primary weight highways in the Province. This measure indicates the progress on the Ministry's Plan to increase the amount of highways available at primary weights.

**Cumulative per cent of twinned highway open to traffic**



### Significance of the Measure

This measure is significant to the Ministry because twinning initiatives increase mobility and safety on the National Highway System. This provides an indicator of progress on delivering our twinning commitments. In February 2009, the Ministry committed to accelerate the twinning on Highway 11 to be completed in four years.



## Measure

Per cent of National Highway System in "Good" condition

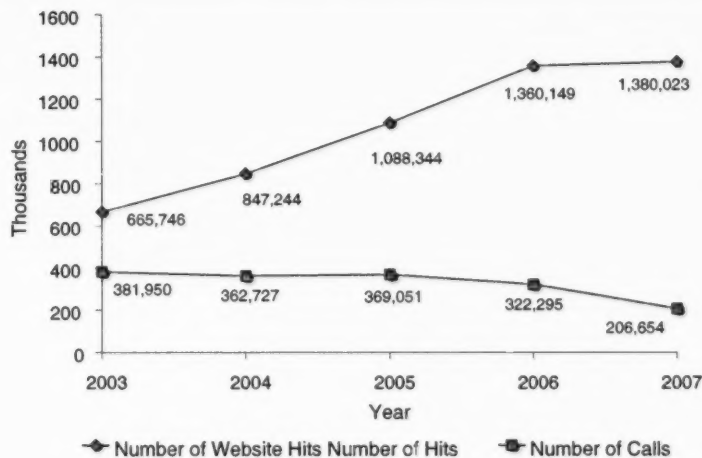
## Baseline / Trend Line Information

2007-08: 94 % of the National Highway System was in "good" condition.  
2008-09: 94 % of the National Highway System was in "good" condition.

### Significance of the Measure

This measure is significant to the Ministry as it shows the results of an effective maintenance and repaving program. A properly maintained highway system enhances public safety and ensures that the transportation system fully supports a fully functioning economy.

### Calls and hits to the Highway Hotline



### Significance of the Measure

The Highway Hotline provides information about the transportation system to the traveling public, business and industry. The Highway Hotline is an important service that the Ministry provides. Calls and Hits are indicators of public awareness of this service. By increasing public awareness of highway conditions, highway users can make informed decisions on travel, resulting in safer travel, fewer accidents and lower injury rates.

# Financial Summary

## Highlights of Appropriation and Expense 2009-10

2009-10 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
<b>Highways and Infrastructure (Vote 16)</b>	
Central Management and Services	21,652
Operation of Transportation System	91,099
Preservation of Transportation System	155,400
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure	65,978
Transportation Policy	3,993
Custom Work Activity	---
Machinery and Equipment	9,500
<b>Total Appropriation (Vote 16)</b>	<b>347,622</b>
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(13,772)
Capital Asset Amortization	103,140
<b>Ministry Expense (Vote 16)</b>	<b>436,990</b>
<b>Highways and Infrastructure Capital (Vote 17)</b>	
Infrastructure Rehabilitation	87,018
Infrastructure Enhancement	195,286
<b>Total Appropriation (Vote 17)</b>	<b>282,304</b>
<b>Total Highways and Infrastructure</b>	<b>629,926</b>
FTE	1,672.4

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at:  
<http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget/2009-10>

# BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has a total budget of \$630 million with a capital investment of \$358 million. This is the largest transportation budget in Saskatchewan history, with the budget being 19 per cent higher than last year's budget.

The following are key announcements being made in the 2009-10 Budget:

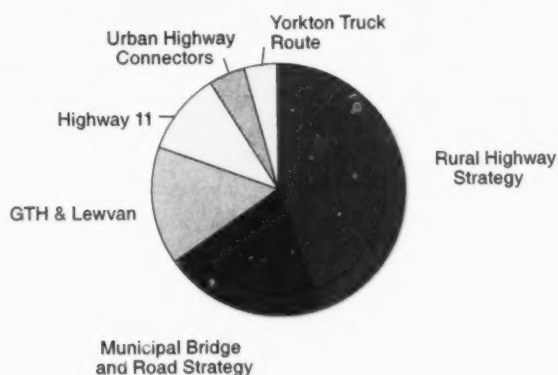
## Supporting Economic Growth

- \$100 million will be invested in the Rural Highway Strategy to expand the Primary Weight Highway network by 5 000 kilometres with commencing and continuing construction on over 250 kilometres of rural highways.
- To provide for an integrated and seamless approach to the municipal and provincial network, \$40 million will be invested in the Municipal Bridge and Road Strategy.
- Stage 1 of core infrastructure for the Global Transportation Hub and new interchange at junction Highway 1 and Lewvan Drive at Regina will commence with an investment of \$34 million.
- Twinning of Highway 11 from Saskatoon to Prince Albert will be accelerated from 8 years to 4 years with \$23 million budgeted for 2009-10.
- The Urban Highway Connector Program will be investing \$11 million to contribute to upgrade projects at Lloydminster, Humboldt, Moosomin, Weyburn, and Melfort.
- To support industrial growth, \$9 million is budgeted to realign Highway 16 near Yorkton.

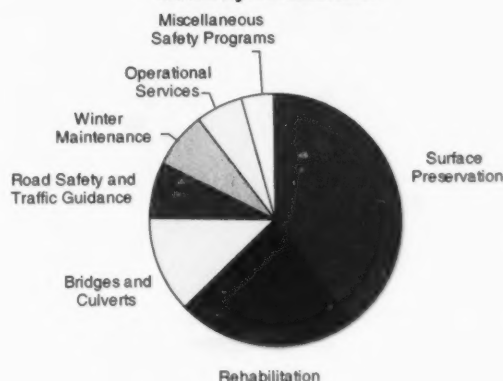
## Ensuring the security of our network and public safety

- This is the largest investment in maintenance and repaving in Saskatchewan history with a \$224 million budget for Surface Preservation and Rehabilitation.
- The Ministry will double last year's investment in the Bridge and Culvert Strategy with a \$45 million budget; this includes \$10 million for the first year of replacing the St. Louis Bridge.

**Economic Growth Investment**



**Security Investment**



## For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at [www.highway.gov.sk.ca](http://www.highway.gov.sk.ca) for more information on programs and services, or call (306) 787-4804.





